

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

August 24, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- 07/13/07 Draft Steering Committee Meeting Notes
- “Creating Opportunity for a Healthier Delta,” Draft document for potential submission to Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) by BDCP Steering Committee (SC) (hard copy only)
- Conservation Strategy (CS) Options Evaluation Report status update and schedule (hard copy only)

Meeting Notes Review

7/13/07 Meeting Notes approved pending addition of Greg Gartrell to list of attendees.

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Options evaluation will be submitted to BDCP SC on 9/7

Updates

- *NRDC v. Kempthorne* case. Judge Wanger suspended hearings for a week, to be resumed next Wednesday. He will rule from the bench Friday, 8/31/07. A ruling that significantly reduces pumping in the Delta could affect programs and planning efforts.
- Governor Schwarzenegger and Sen. Dianne Feinstein held summit in Los Angeles recently, discussed water issues in Delta. Dr. Jeff Mount (UC Davis) presented PPIC report conclusions, suggested that isolated facility/peripheral aqueduct would be best solution.
- CALFED Science, presented by Leo Winternitz. Last Wednesday- Peripheral Canal science conference. The press on that was poor, but the attendees felt it was relatively balanced considering the complexity of the topic. Sept. 11- Through-Delta conveyance science conference. CALFED science program is developing a State of the Science document for the estuary, with draft report end of October, to be reviewed by Independent Science Board (ISB). ISB also meets next week for two days.

Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF)

BDCP management will present BDCP process and goals at BRTF meeting next week and will answer questions from the BRTF members. BDCP will develop a comprehensive conservation strategy.

NGO's are still in process of clarifying the vision statement that they submitted to BRTF. PRE's have also prepared a statement (see Associated documents/handouts “Creating Opportunity for a Healthier Delta”) that could be used as submission describing BDCP process to BRTF on behalf of the entire SC. There was general support for doing so from members. The SC recognizes this will be a challenging process and adaptive management needs to be a key component of BDCP. Management team will receive comments by COB Monday and BDCP will submit to the BRTF on Thursday.

Conservation Strategy Options Evaluation

Presented by Paul Cylinder. Schedule has been pushed back to accommodate court cases and other demands on team. New deadline is 9/7. The Options focus on structural ways to convey water and their relationship to species conservation goals, including the opportunities for habitat restoration based on

where the structural conveyance facilities would be; they are not fully-formed conservation strategies. The evaluation compares the relative performance of the Options for achieving each of the evaluation criteria using hydrologic modeling and qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Next step after the evaluation is submitted is to create the draft Framework, which will summarize the conservation strategy approach that is crafted by the SC on the basis of the Options evaluation and other information. As the SC considers the Options, the Fishery Agencies will provide technical input and advice.

Science workshop

Upcoming 9/12-9/13. Each caucus will have opportunity to provide input at the workshop, 5 minutes each.

Public comment

No comments made today.

Next meeting

Sept. 7, 2007. Same time and location. (Note: this meeting was later postponed for 9/17).

Attendees

Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Resources Agency)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
John McCamman (DFG)
Leo Winternitz (CBDA)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Frank Michny (USBR)
Russ Strach (NOAA)
Roger Patterson (MWD)
Cliff Schultz (Kern County Water District)
Dale Myers (Zone 7)
Ara Azhderian (SLDM)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Kenny Watkins (CFBF)
Gary Bobker (Bay Institute)
Jeff Russell (Mirant)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Rick Wilder (SAIC)

By phone

Michael Bean (Environmental Defense)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers, NHI)
Anthony Saracino (TNC)